

SAMUEL McCLURE.

FEBRUARY 3, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOLLIDAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1352.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1352) for the relief of Samuel McClure, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$10 to \$16 per month.

Samuel McClure, now 58 years of age, served as a private in Company B, Twelfth Kentucky Infantry, from October 12, 1861, to July 11, 1865, when honorably discharged.

Records of the War Department show that he received a gunshot wound above the left hip at Wilmington in January, 1865.

He first applied for pension in December, 1879, on account of a gunshot wound of left hip and weakness of back, the result of fever.

This claim was rejected in February, 1885.

In June, 1888, Congress passed an act placing him on the pension roll at \$8 per month. Subsequently, in April, 1890, the Pension Bureau held that the soldier had established his claim under the general law and pensioned him for weakness of back and shell wound of left hip at \$2 per month from discharge, at \$4 from November 14, 1888, and at \$8 from July 31, 1899.

In 1902 he was pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$10 per month for partial inability to earn a support by manual labor, the result of the causes for which he had formerly been pensioned under the general law, and for piles, rheumatism, disease of heart, and nervous debility.

Claims for increase of pension under the general law as well as under the act of June 27, 1890, were rejected in January, 1904, upon the ground that under the act of June 27, 1890, the aggregate of his disabilities did not warrant a rate in excess of \$10 per month, and under the general law his disabilities of accepted service origin did not warrant a rate in excess of \$8, that there was no disability from lumbago

other than that approved for the weakness of back, and that the alleged resulting partial paralysis of the left leg was not shown to exist.

A claim on account of sunstroke and resulting disease of heart and deafness, filed in 1890, was also rejected by the Pension Bureau in 1891 upon the ground that the disability from those causes had not existed since the filing of the claim.

When last examined, on November 11, 1903, the board of surgeons described his condition as follows:

Shell wound of left hip: There is nothing that looks like a scar to give evidence of the same.

Lameness of back: The muscles are rigid. He stoops indifferently and claims occasional acute asceridations constituting lumbago. He is paralyzed in the hands and arms. There is tenderness on manipulation of the shoulders and knees, partial limitation of motion in the joints. He has a neuritis of the left hip and weakness, with a perceptible lameness. He has a left spinal obliquity, not very extensive, also of dorsal origin, and claims to have a good deal of pain in this part of the back.

He has four pile tumors, tender and red, and has hypertrophy of the heart with dilatation and enlarged prostate.

The board of surgeons then rated him \$10 for rheumatism, \$10 for spinal trouble, \$10 for piles, \$12 for disease of heart, and \$8 for enlarged prostate.

A petition signed by a large number of physicians and other prominent citizens of Mount Vernon, Ky., filed with your committee, sets forth that the pension which the soldier is now receiving is not commensurate with his disabilities received while in the service of the United States.

In view of the soldier's faithful services of over three years and his serious condition from paralysis, aside from the causes for which pensioned under the general law, an increase of his pension to \$20 per month is just and proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 4, after the word "roll," insert the words "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

In lines 5 and 6 strike out the words "of Mount Vernon, Kentucky, late a private in" and insert in lieu thereof the words "late of."

In line 7 strike out the words "in the war for the suppression of the rebellion."

In line 8 strike out the word "sixteen" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Samuel McClure."